



January 26, 2004

Mt. Hope man sentenced in crack-for-guns trade

A federal judge has sentenced **Arondae Washington**, 26, of 101 Lancaster Street, Providence, to 37 months in federal prison for trading crack cocaine for handguns. **ATF** agents and Providence Police arrested Washington in a Providence hotel in August after he had given an undercover agent crack cocaine in exchange for three handguns.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on January 23 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In November, Washington pleaded guilty to distributing crack cocaine. At the hearing at which Washington pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that, on August 21, an ATF agent and another man met with Washington in a Providence hotel room. Washington placed four plastic bags of crack cocaine on the bed and took three handguns that were displayed on the bed. Agents arrested him as he left the room.

The investigation was conducted as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. The **ATF Firearms Trafficking and Violent Crimes Task Force** and **Providence Police** conducted the investigation. Investigators from **Providence Police**, **Rhode Island State Police**, **Warwick Police**, and the **Rhode Island Attorney General's Office** are assigned to the task force.

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